



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr.
Southern District of Texas**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007
www.usdoj.gov/usao/txs

CONTACT: Nancy Herrera
PHONE: (713) 567-9301
FAX: (713) 748-3415

A FORMER TEXAS A & M CORPUS CHRISTI STUDENT CONVICTED OF POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(CORPUS CHRISTI) – A former Texas A & M Corpus Christi student has pleaded guilty to possessing child pornography, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

At a hearing held late Wednesday, May 23, 2007, Timothy Patrick Ross, 20, admitted that in November 2006 he possessed child pornography, that is a video in which an adult male was engaged in sexually explicit acts with a minor female. Immediately following the hearing, U. S. District Judge Hayden Head ordered Ross be taken into federal custody pending his sentencing hearing in August. Ross had been free on bond since his arrest in late March 2007.

The investigation leading to the indictment of Ross began in Colorado Springs, CO when Ross began an online conversation and eventually a solicitation of a 12-year-old girl, not knowing the minor was actually an undercover officer. The investigation continued leading to the discovery of Ross' identity and his place of residence on the Texas A & M Corpus Christi University campus and ultimately a search of Ross' apartment on November 15, 2006, by officers of the Corpus Christi Police Department and special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Officers and agents discovered photographic and video images of child pornography on Ross' computer and other electronic media storage devices. Many of the images depicted child victims previously identified by the National Center For Missing And Exploited Children.

Ross is scheduled to be sentenced on August 1, 2007 and faces a statutory maximum punishment of ten years imprisonment without parole and a \$250,000 fine.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse, launched by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales in February 2006. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Corpus Christi Police Department investigated the case with assistance from the Bexar County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado Springs, Colorado Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Lance Duke.

#